

# **Effects of Defensive Vehicle Handling Training on Novice Driver Safety: Phase 3**

## **Progress Report**

**For the period August 15, 2008 – January 14, 2009**

Prepared by

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Prepared for

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
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PROGRESS REPORT			
<b>Progress Report Date</b> January 15, 2009	<b>Reporting Period</b> August 15, 2008 – January 14, 2009	<b>Project Start Date</b> May 1, 2005	<b>Project End Date</b> July 31, 2010
<b>Project Title</b> Effects of Defensive Vehicle Handling Training on Novice Driver Safety. Phase 3			
<b>Principal Investigator</b> Laura M. Stanley		<b>Sponsoring Agency Contact</b> Sue Sillick	
<b>Research Agency</b> Western Transportation Institute Montana State University, Bozeman		<b>Sponsoring Agency</b> Montana Department of Transportation	
<b>Project Identification Number (WTI)</b> 4W0434		<b>Project Status</b> ____ Ahead <u>  X  </u> On Schedule    ____ Behind	
<p><b>PROJECT PROGRESS</b></p> <p>The Western Transportation Institute (WTI) has made progress in several key areas during this reporting period on the project entitled <i>Effects of Defensive Vehicle Handling Training on Novice Driver Safety. Phase 3</i>. During this reporting period, WTI conducted the annual survey of participants to obtain information on their driving experience over the previous year, and also began an analysis of participant Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) records as an independent avenue to obtain some of this information. In August of 2008, 347 surveys were mailed to the participants using the addresses provided at the beginning of the project. The survey process was open for approximately five months (August 2008 through mid-January 2009). New this year was the option for the participants to complete the survey using an online survey system (Survey Monkey). The objective of the online method was to increase the survey response rate by providing the survey respondents with another method, and perhaps more efficient method, to complete the survey process. Of the 347 participants, 99 responded to the initial mailing. Twenty-three of these respondents used the online survey system. For those not responding, another reminder/second mailing was sent. From this second contact attempt, an additional 68 participants responded, resulting in a total response rate of 48 percent (162 responses). Of the 347 original project participants, 38 were unable to be reached even after second attempts were made based upon a forwarding address provided by the postal service. Each participant was compensated \$10.00 for their completed survey.</p> <p>A statistical analysis of the survey data will be conducted and included in the Annual Report due February 27, 2009. This report will summarize the survey respondent's data such as citations, near-crashes, crashes, driving exposures, etc. for each year (2005, 2006, and 2007).</p> <p>New in this quarter was the analysis of the participant's Montana DMV records. These records are a more objective source of data than the somewhat subjective data provided via the participant survey. DMV records were available for 295 participants. The remaining 52 records could not be located due to the lack of driver's license number for these participants, either because one was not obtained throughout the survey process, or the participant's license number was no longer valid (e.g., moved to another state). The DMV records provide information such as dates, location, and details regarding the citations and warnings received. As expected, the numbers of citations reported by participants through the surveys was lower than those obtained based on the DMV data. This discrepancy may be due to forgotten incidents or multiple citations received at one time. The Annual Report will include a comprehensive analysis of the DMV data as well.</p>			

**PROPOSED ACTIVITY**

During the next reporting, a comprehensive analysis of the survey and DMV data will be conducted and included in the Annual Report due February 27, 2009. Example analyses to be performed include:

- Analysis of participant's scores on the pre and post skid training, per David Huff's request.
- Driving exposure of participants for each year (2005, 2006, and 2007).
- Single vehicle incidents adjusted for exposure to driving for each year.
- Total number of incidents adjusted for exposure to driving for each year.
- Multiple vehicle incidents adjusted for exposure to driving for each year.
- Number of near miss incidents adjusted for exposure to driving for each year.
- Number of DMV citations reported compared to the number of citations reported via the survey.

**PROBLEMS**

No major problems to report during this reporting period.

**EXPENDITURES:**

Summary to date:

Inception to Date #4W1060: \$63,327.87 (Budget \$85,000)

Inception to Date # 4W1066: \$55,384.38 (Budget \$85,000)